CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for enabling access of a plurality of data sources by a single access operation wherein each data source in said plurality of data sources requires a separate driver to access the data source so that there is a plurality of separate drivers, said method comprising:

using an application programming interface (API) for each driver in said plurality of separate drivers, wherein said API is substantially identical for each of said drivers in said plurality of separate drivers; and

receiving said single access operation by a merging driver wherein in response to said single access operation, said merging driver accesses each driver in said plurality of separate drivers through said API.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

receiving from a user a selection of each data source to be included in said plurality of data sources.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein one data source in said plurality of data sources is a merging data source.

4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

obtaining an ordered result in response to said single access operation.

5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

accessing said merging driver through said API.

6. A computer program product comprising computer program code for enabling access of a plurality of data sources by a single access operation wherein each data source in said plurality of data sources requires a separate driver to access the data source so that there is a plurality of separate drivers, said method comprising:

using an application programming interface (API) for each driver in said plurality of separate drivers, wherein said API is substantially identical for each of said drivers in said plurality of separate drivers; and

receiving said single access by a merging driver wherein in response to said single access operation, said merging driver accesses said plurality of separate drivers through said API.

7. The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein said method further comprises:

receiving from a user a selection of each data source to be included in said plurality of data sources.

8. The computer program product of Claim 7 wherein one data source in said plurality of data sources is a merging data source.

9. The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein said method further comprises:

obtaining an ordered result in response to said single access operation.

10. The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein said method further comprises:

accessing said merging driver through said API.

11. A system comprising:

a plurality of data sources;

a driver for each data source in said plurality of data sources thereby forming a plurality of drivers wherein each driver has a substantially identical driver application programming interface; and

a merging driver coupled to each driver in said plurality of drivers through said driver application programming interface.

12. The system of Claim 11 wherein one data source in said plurality of data sources is a merging data source.

13. A system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to said processor, and having stored therein computer program instructions, wherein execution of computer program instructions by said processor comprises a method for enabling access of a plurality of data sources by a single access operation wherein each data source in said plurality of data sources requires a separate driver to access the data source so that there is a plurality of separate drivers, said method comprising:

using an application programming interface (API) for each driver in said plurality of separate drivers, wherein said API is substantially identical for each of said drivers in said plurality of separate drivers; and

receiving said single access operation by a merging driver wherein in response to said single access operation, said merging driver

accesses each driver in said plurality of separate drivers through said API.

14. The system of Claim 13, said method further comprising:

receiving from a user a selection of each data source to be included in said plurality of data sources.

15. The system of Claim 14 wherein one data source in said plurality of data sources is a merging data source.

16. The system of Claim 13, said method further comprising:

obtaining an ordered result in response to said single access operation.

17. The system of Claim 13, said method further comprising:

accessing said merging driver through said API.